SECRET [redacted] H15

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS: NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

MAJOR DISCOVERER PROGRAMMING ACTIONS

DATE	ITEM	REFERENCE
9 October 1957	Following Sputnik, in answer to Hq USAF request as to efforts and resources required to accelerate the IC and ICBM, an estimate was made for WS 117L. AFBMD pointed out that a large amount of funds would be needed to regain lost time due to fund strictures and lack of firm program approval. With $99.8M FY 58 and $121.7M FY 59 funds program could be advanced 6 months to one year if priority is given effort.	TWX from AFBMD to CSAF USAF dtd 9 Oct 57
6 January 1958	LMSD submitted a program acceleration plan for WS117 (LMSD-2832) as requested by BMD in Nov 57. Based on THOR-boosted early flight with a recoverable capsule as proposed by RAND. Flights to begin in late 1958. Increase manufacture of LMSD vehicles. ATLAS-boosted flights to begin in early 1959. General Schriever approved in principle, subject to reviews of special areas.	LMSD-2832 Memo for Record, subj: Establishment of THOR-boosted Phase of WS117L dtd 31 Jan 58 by Col Oder
22 January 1958	Program acceleration plan submitted. Plan included a photographic reconnaissance configuration of a THOR-boosted recoverable reconnaissance package.	Management Report #8 (Amend to System Development Plan) WS 117L
3 February 1958	President Dwight D. Eisenhower directed that highest and equal national priority be given to ballistic missiles, satellites and defense programs. (ICBM, IRBM, WS117L, WS224A)	TWX from HEDQUAF to Comdr ARDC, AFDPP-MS-1 55965
24 February 1958	Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy approved in principle the proposed acceleration of WS117L to be conducted under direction of ARPA. BMD to submit a development plan.	Memo for SAF, subj:Air Force WS117L Program (Reconnaissance System) Sec of Def, 24 Feb 58
28 February 1958	Mr. Roy Johnson, ARPA, in memo to the Sec/AF concluded that: a. ATLAS/WS117L Project should be accelerated and given highest national priority in order to attain IOC at earliest date. b. THOR-boosted interim reconnaissance system with light weight recoverable capsule was a duplication of "a". Do not pursue. c. To attain early flights of Lockheed second stage, AF may find it desirable to use THOR-boosted test firings. THOR-boosted cheaper and available sooner than ATLAS, also can be used with second stage Lockheed vehicle for experimental recovery flights with animals.	Memo for SAF, subj: Reconnaissance Satellites and Manned Space Exploration, Office of Sec of Def, dtd 28 Feb 59, /s/Roy L.Johnson, Dir, ARPA

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DATE	ITEM	REFERENCE
March 1958	Activity in interim visual reconnaissance program (IIA) terminated in accordance with Mr. Johnson's message of 28 February.	
4 March 1958	OSD approved acceleration of WS 117L to include launching satellite test vehicles based on THOR booster.	Minutes of 16th meeting of AF Ballistic Missile Committee, 14 Mar 58, AFOIN Cont #501249
12 March 1958	Lockheed notified that Hq USAF had disapproved the WS 117L recoverable reconnaissance payload program. (WS 117L Program IIA). ARDC notified to reorient THOR-booster WS 117L Program for acceleration using THOR-boosted flights for early WS 117L tests -- orbital flights for exercise of ground-space communication network, concept for recoverable capsule, for aeromedical research flights.	TWX, WDTR 3-18-2 fr. Comdr, AFBMD to ARDC, 12 Mar 58
19 May 1958	Cognizance over WS 117L assigned to ARPA.	Incl. 2 of Sec of Def Directive No.3200.5 dtd 19 May 58
30 June 1958	ARPA Order 9-58 issued. Announced Sec Def had approved the assumption of responsibility for the Advanced Reconnaissance System (WS 117L) by ARPA. ARDC to continue the project: to submit a detailed development and financial plan to ARPA $82.7M made available initially.	ARPA Order 9-58, 30 June 1958
1 July 1958	AFBMD Advanced Reconnaissance System (WS 117L) "New Horizon" Development Plan published. Funding program FY 58, $60M; FY 59, $215M, later revised to FY 58, $67M; FY 59, $198M. Plan contained both THOR-boosted version for component test and demonstration of orbital capability, and ATLAS-boosted reconnaissance program.	New Horizon Development Plan, 1 July 58
July 1958	Initial arrangements made by ARDC to organize a unit capable of aerial recovery WS 117L capsules. 9/ C119J aircraft to be used. "Aerial Snatch" called Project Hot Hand. Aircraft to come from TAC, 6593d Test Squadron (Special) activated by ARDC GO 38, effective 1 Aug 58. Unit to be based at Hickam AFB.	ARDC General Order 38
20 July 1958	Director ARPA, informed Sec Air Force $215M was programmed for WS 117L in FY 59. $30.7M available to ARDC. Balance subject to Congressional action, BOB apportionment. Total included biomedical project. ARDC informally requested to	Memo for Sec of Def subj: ARPA Fiscal Year 1958-1959 budget, dtd 11 July 1958

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DATE	ITEM	REFERENCE
	submit a new development and funding plan within these limitations, and to indicate how they would use more money if additional funds are available.	
22 July 1958	ARDC GO 38 designated and organized 6593d Test Squadron (Special). (In place at AFFTC for training, Aug-Dec 58, then to Hickam AFB, Hawaii.) Squadron assigned to Det #2, ARDC, AFBMD, for administrative and operational control.	ARDC GO 38
6 August 1958	Procurement of long lead time items authorized. THOR-WS 117L vehicle procurement increased an additional 9 over the 10 authorized to a total of 19. Intent to utilize these for bio-medical and other measurements of space phenomena. Prepare new development plan based on $215M FY 59 ARPA Program.	TWX fr Hq USAF to CDRARDC AFDRM 54161 dtd 6 Aug 58
15 Sep 1958	AFBMD published Advanced Reconnaissance System (WS 117L) Development Plan. Contained both THOR and ATLAS-boosted phases of program. Funding program, FY 59, $215M; FY 60, $496M. Plan is profusely illustrated and explanatory in detail.	ARS(WS 117L) Development Plan, 15 Sep 58
25 Sep 1958	Director, ARPA informed BMD he was not able to approve current SENTRY Development Plan. Reasons: FY 59 funding plan exceeds ceiling of $215M; achievements of major program objectives have been substantially delayed in spite of proposed funding level increases; FY 60 budget is in excess of a considered realistic funding level. ARPA sending an Ad Hoc Project Group out to investigate, evaluate and recommend on ARPA SENTRY and follow-on program. (Cesaro, Lind, Irvine, Trunk)	Memo for Comdr, BMD, ARDC, fr. ARPA, subj: ARPA Ad Hoc Gp on Project SENTRY and Follow on Program, dtd 25 Sep 58
25 Nov 1958	ARDC directed to eliminate two of the small primate shots from the DISCOVERER test series. Two mouse, one small primate shot are authorized. The two cancelled small primate boosters are to be reassigned.	Ltr to Comdr ARDC from ARPA, dtd 25 Nov 58 /s/ R.W.Johnson
4 December 1958	Mr. Roy W. Johnson, Director, ARPA, informed the Under Secretary of the Air Force that a program to develop a number of systems and techniques which will be employed in the operation of space vehicles had been inaugurated. This program, to be known as DISCOVERER, was to include THOR launchings associated with WS 117L plus other similar	Memo for SAF, subj: WS 117L Program, ARPA, dtd 4 Dec 58; Memo Rpt for Director ARPA fr OSD, dtd 1 Dec 58

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DATE	ITEM	REFERENCE
	projects not operationally oriented. Separate out DISCOVERER-TEOR costs from WS 117L Program (SENTRY). Prepare separate development plans and progress reports for each. Tentative reallocation of funds is: DISCOVERER; FY 59, [redacted] FY 60, [redacted] SENTRY; FY 59, $10M, FY 60, $10M. Secretary of Defense and ARPA agreed to assign IOC for SENTRY to ARDC "for the next several years and until final objectives are obtained". Tentative "centers" for the program will be operated by ARDC.	
5 December 1958	Mr. Roy W. Johnson, Director, ARPA, informed Under Secretary of the Air Force that reorientations of the DISCOVERER and SENTRY Programs were proposed, and a study and review would be made. For this review, AF was to ensure that [redacted] was available in FY 59 and [redacted] in FY 60. AFBMD should not exceed these resources. In areas where cancellations were contemplated, no procurements beyond those absolutely necessary should be made.	Memo for Under SAF, subj: DISCOVERER-TEOR Project and SENTRY Programs, ARPA, dated 5 Dec 58
- December 1958	Mr. R. W. Johnson revised his 25 Nov 58 letter concerning biomedical payloads for DISCOVERER Program now to provide for one successful primate recovery, up to a total of 3 attempts should be planned, with 2 additional attempts, if necessary and desired to be in lieu of payloads in the series of 13 flight vehicles.	TWX fr OSD to Comdr ARDC DEF 951903 dated 7 Dec 58
15 December 1958	AFBMD briefed AF and ARPA on WS 117L reorientation in response to 4-5 December ARPA directives. BMD also submitted alternate program reorientation suggestions.	
16 December 1958	ARPA Order 48-59 to Sec AF. Requested Sec AF to continue study, development, and launch operations originally associated with the TEOR phase of SENTRY Program under ARPA Order 9-58, as an independent project identified as DISCOVERER-TEOR project. Earlier costs will be transferred to the new project. Prepare a new financial plan by 15 Jan 1959.	ARPA Order 48-59
17 December 1958	Mr. R. W. Johnson, Director ARPA, reorients SENTRY Program. The reorientation included FY 59 funds of [redacted] This figure, [redacted] included the 13 flight DISCOVERER program of Calendar Year 1959.	Memo for the Under SAF subj: Reorientation of SENTRY Program, ARPA, dtd 17 Dec 58

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DATE	ITEM	REFERENCE
Late December 1958	First THOR-boosted DISCOVERER on pad at Vandenberg AFB awaiting launch.	
21 January 1959	First launch attempt of a THOR-DISCOVERER from Vandenberg AFB. Launch terminated at T-60 as a result of inadvertent firing of the ullage rockets.	
30 January 1959	Four new development plans published DISCOVERER, MIDAS, SENTRY and CAROUSEL. Plans in accordance with ARPA reoriented program.	
2-4 February 59	Hq USAF - ARDC and ARPA briefed on DISCOVERER, SENTRY and CAROUSEL Development Plans. The proposed CAROUSEL Program was removed from further consideration.	
16 February 59	Amendment No. 1 to ARPA Order dtd 16 Feb, No. 48-59 approved, "in general" the DISCOVERER Program as presented to the ARPA on 4 Feb 59. The approval authorized a 13 vehicle program and made available $104.3M for FY 59.	Amend No. 1 to ARPA Order 48-59
17 February 59	ARPA Order 60-59 makes available $1.1M to defray the cost of modification and operation of the downrange telemetry ship, Pvt Joe E. Mann, thru 30 Jun 59. The order announces that effective 1 Jul 59 operational and funding responsibility for the ship will be transferred to the Pacific Missile Range.	ARPA Order 60-59
28 February 59	DISCOVERER I (163-1022) successfully launched.	
24 March 1959	Amendment No. 2 to ARPA Order No. 48-59 approves the development and funding plan, dtd 30 Jan 59 for the DISCOVERER Program. The approval provides for a 13-vehicle program.	Amend No. 2 to ARPA Order 48-59.
13 April 1959	DISCOVERER II (170-1018) successfully launched from VAFB at 1318Z hours. DISCOVERER II was successfully placed in orbit.	

SAFSPOA-53

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Major Peitz SAFSP-OA		Undated		SAFSP-OA-58	
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SAFSP-OA	1. File	15 Jan 62	4.	
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Report, 1 cy (unbound) 'Historical Chronology - Major DISCOVERER Programming Actions 9 Oct 57 - 13 Apr 1959 - 5 pages

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